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PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

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1846-7.

No. 59.

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January 11th, 1847.

REV. HUMPHREY LLOYD, D. D., President, in the  
Chair.

William Brooke, Esq., Q.C.; Dominick Corrigan, M. D.;  
Leonard Dobbin, Esq.; Michael Donovan, Esq.; Charles Hali-  
day, Esq.; William Neilson Hancock, Esq.; John Kells In-  
gram, Esq., F.T.C.D.; Charles P. Mac Donnell, Esq.; Right  
Hon. Louis Perrin; and Frederick John Sidney, Esq., were  
elected Members of the Academy.

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On the recommendation of Council the following By-laws  
were adopted by the Academy :

“1. That the number of Honorary Members of the  
Academy shall be limited to sixty.

“2. That there shall be three Sections of Honorary  
Members, corresponding to the threefold objects of the Aca-  
demy, and that the numbers in each Section shall be limited  
as follows :

“Section of Science, 30; of Literature, 15; of Antiqui-  
ties, 15; = 60.

“3. That the number of Honorary Members in each Section, natives of Great Britain and Ireland, shall not exceed one-half of the total number in that Section.

“4. That the election of Honorary Members shall take place only at the Stated Meeting in November.

“5. That none shall be eligible as Honorary Members unless previously recommended by the Council, and that the choice of the Council shall be determined by Ballot.

“6. That the former By-laws of the Academy relating to Honorary Members be repealed, and the foregoing substituted in their place.

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On the recommendation of Council, it was RESOLVED,—That the Committee of Antiquities be authorized to make a selection of specimens from the purchased articles in the Museum of the Academy, to be presented to the Royal Museum of Copenhagen, by the hands of Mr. Worsaae; and that this donation be accompanied by drawings of other antiquities.

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The Rev. Charles Graves made a communication supplementary to his paper on the date of the Book of Armagh.

On the margin of fol. 64, b., and opposite to that part of the text which contains the twenty-first verse of the thirteenth chapter of St. Mark's Gospel, the proper name *Cellach* occurs, written in the peculiar Greek character of which examples have been already given.\* As it was an ordinary thing for a scribe to make in the margin of a page a memorandum relating to some circumstance which took place at the time he was writing it, there is reason to suppose that the name *Cellach*, written here, was intended to record some event in which a person of that name bore a principal part. Unfortunately, as the name was a very common one amongst Irish ecclesiastics, we cannot, with any certainty, fix upon the in-

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\* Proceedings of the Academy, vol. iii. p. 318.

dividual here referred to, and so obtain grounds for determining the date of the manuscript *a priori*. On the other hand, if we are permitted to assume that it was written A. D. 807, good reasons for this conclusion having been already shewn, we are enabled to account in a satisfactory manner for the appearance of the name in question.

In the twenty-fourth chapter of Sir James Ware's *Antiquitates Hibernicæ*, where he gives an account of the acts of the Ostmen in Ireland, we find the following passage :

“Anno 807, Dani et Norwegi in Hiberniam appulerunt, et Roscomaniam, regionemque adjacentem ferro flammâque vastarunt. Eodem tempore Cellacus Abbas cænobii S. Columbæ Huensis, multis e suis, Norwegorum crudelitate, interfectis, in Hiberniam profugit, et Kenanusæ, alias Kenlisæ in Midia, monasterium in honorem S. Columbæ sive condidit, sive restauravit. Cum vero annos circiter septem ibi præfuisset Abbas, Dermotio quodam in dicto cænobio Abbate relicto, in Ionam sive insulam Huensem reversus est, ubi, post annum unum vel alterum mortem obiit.”

Ware does not indicate the sources from whence he has derived this account. It is confirmed, however, as regards the date and the history of Cellach, by the Manuscript Annals in the Library of Trinity College, H. 1, 7, commonly called the Annals of Innisfallen; and mention is made in the Annals of Ulster, *ad. ann.* 806 (A. D. 807), of the building of the monastery at Kells.

To the history of this Abbot of Iona it is by no means improbable that allusion may have been intended by the scribe who wrote the name of *Cellach* in the margin: and perhaps he may have thought that our Lord's descriptive prediction of the miseries attending the destruction of Jerusalem (Mark xiii. 14–23) was not inapplicable to the sad visitation which had recently fallen upon Iona.

With respect to the practice of writing Latin in Greek characters, of which so many instances occur in the Book of

Armagh, it is to be observed that it does not necessarily indicate a greater antiquity than Mr. Graves has assigned to this manuscript. A decisive example of this kind occurs in the case of the great Bible of the Abbey of St. Germain des Prés, which, according to a note contained in it, was written in the eighth year of the reign of *Louis le Débonaire*, that is, A. D. 822. The scribe of that manuscript has inserted in it two Latin memoranda, which refer to the fact of its having been executed by him, employing in both a Greek character, similar to that used in the Book of Armagh.

His reason for doing so seems, in one case, to have been the desire to vindicate his right to the credit, of which some other scribe was depriving him. "*Obsecro te lector,*" he says, "*ne laborem manuum mearum despicias; sed quæso deprecor mellifluam charitatem tuam ut pro me Domini misericordiam exores. Evio idem fero laborem, alius tollit honorem.*" It must be inferred that the *alius* here spoken of was unacquainted with the Greek character, in which these words were written. In the other note the object of the scribe was plainly to exhibit his own skill and learning, and, at the same time, to test the intelligence of the reader. The passage, of which the first part is written in a strangely elongated cursive hand, and the last four words in Greek letters, runs as follows: "*Supplicamus omnibus in Christo fidelibus qui hunc libellum ad volvendum ad legendum accipitis meam ne reprehendito insipientiam;*" which is immediately followed by the pentameter,

"Me quicumque capit rusticitate caret,"

written in the ordinary hand.

Nor was it only in the use of Greek characters that the scribes of those times displayed their pedantry. Sylvestre, in his *Paléographie Universelle*, vol. iv., describes a manuscript

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\* Fac-similes of these two passages are given in the *Nouveau Traité de Diplomatique* of the Benedictines, vol. iii., pp. 186-437.

of the ninth century, in the Royal Library at Munich, in which the Scribe has written the following sentence in Anglo-Saxon runes: "*Omnis labor finem habet, præmium ejus non habet finem. Madalfrid scripsit istam partem. Deo gratias quod ego perfeci opus meum.*" Thus recording his name, which he may not have been allowed to do without resorting to this artifice, and at the same time giving a proof of his learning.

Mr. Graves insists much upon the importance of determining, with precision, the date of a manuscript so ancient, and of so much interest, as the Book of Armagh. By effecting this, a great advance is made towards the establishment of principles of palæography, by which we may estimate the age of Irish manuscripts in general; and we are furnished with the means of refuting the assertion, still repeated, that Ireland has no manuscripts of a date more ancient than the close of the ninth century.\*

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The Secretary of Council read the abstract of a paper by the Rev. Dr. Hincks, on the third Persepolitan Writing, and on the Mode of expressing Numerals in Cuneatic Characters.

"When I laid before the Academy, at its last sitting, my alphabet of the third Persepolitan writing, with the corresponding lapidary characters, I by no means expected that it would prove perfectly correct; no first attempt at the alphabet of an unknown language has been so. I considered it, however, an approximation, and probably as near a one as could be attained by means of the data in my possession; and I looked forward to its being amended by those who had the command of more numerous inscriptions. There were some circumstances which left no doubt on my mind that error existed somewhere in it, though I could not discover where. The number of dentals was too small; there was no character

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\* See Moore's History of Ireland, vol. i. p. 310.